



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, September 8, 2008
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Docket #: 07-cr-488-FCD

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MANUFACTURER OF FICTITIOUS CHECKS GETS 15 MONTHS FEDERAL PRISON *Sixth Defendant to be Sentenced in Identity Theft Scheme*

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that HEATHER ANNE MORSHEAD, 26, of Magalia, Calif., was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. to 15 months in prison for felony conspiracy and bank fraud offenses related to a scheme to create counterfeit checks.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Butte County Sheriff's Department, Chico Police Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and other law enforcement agencies in Northern California, including state and local authorities in Glenn, Tehama, and Plumas Counties.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, from November 2006 through March 2007, MORSHEAD, working with co-defendant JODI LYNN GARCIA, 32, of Paradise, Calif., and others, manufactured checks using financial information stolen from the U.S. Mail and during residential burglaries and vehicle break-ins. In a scheme involving at least five others, MORSHEAD used computer software and check stock to manufacture checks with co-conspirator names, using account numbers obtained from stolen financial information. MORSHEAD, who was a student at Butte County Community College, also cashed checks that were stolen from the U.S. Mail. Following completion of her 15 month jail term, MORSHEAD will be on supervised release for 36 months. She previously paid restitution.

Five other participants were previously convicted of offenses relating to the scheme, and sentenced as follows:

- JODI LYNN GARCIA, 32, of Paradise, Calif., pleaded guilty on October 1, 2007 to two counts of conspiracy, bank fraud, and aggravated identity theft, and was sentenced to 65 months in federal prison, plus 36 months supervised release. She was also ordered to pay restitution of \$11,533 and an assessment of \$700.
- MELISSA ANN MEIER, 19, of Chico, Calif., pleaded guilty on March 3, 2008 to two counts of bank fraud, two counts of possession of stolen U.S. Mail, and a single count of conspiracy, and was subsequently sentenced to a year in prison, plus 36 months supervised release. She was ordered to pay restitution of \$3,777 and an assessment of \$500.
- HEATHER MICHELLE WILSON, 34, of Chico, pleaded guilty on September 24, 2007 to five counts of bank fraud, a single count of possession of stolen U.S. Mail, and a single count of conspiracy and was sentenced to three days in jail plus 36 months supervised release with conditions including six months of home

confinement. She was ordered to pay restitution of \$13,636 and an assessment of \$700.

- TIFFANY ANN SABRAL, 27, of Chico, pleaded guilty on August 27, 2007 to two counts of bank fraud and a single count of conspiracy and was sentenced to 36 months supervised release with conditions including five months of home confinement. She was ordered to pay restitution of \$832 and an assessment of \$300.
- TANYA LESLIE WELLMAN, 37, of Durham, Calif., pleaded guilty on September 14, 2007 to four counts of bank fraud and a single count of conspiracy, and was sentenced to 36 months supervised release with conditions. She was ordered to pay restitution of \$2,972 and an assessment of \$500.

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